

vinegar and thick mucilage. He was calmer during the night—his head was clearer, and the anxiety diminished; copious sweating came on, followed by sleep, after which he became much better. The pulse, however, continued full and frequent, and the voiding of the urine difficult. A light infusion of digitalis, with acetate of potass, was now given, and under this treatment the patient recovered in a few days.—*London Medical and Surgical Journal*, March, 1830, from *Russ's Magazine*.

PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.

35. *Tartar Emetic in large doses*.—We learn from *La Clinique* for December last, that M. LAENNEC, who was the first to employ tartar emetic in large doses, for the cure of articular rheumatism, abandoned this practice some time before his death, not having derived from it the advantages that he at first supposed he had.

36. *Otorrhea in Children*.—Dr. AMELUNG states in a communication in *Graefe and Walther's Journal*, B. XII. that he has employed with great success in this disease, especially when the discharge is fetid, an injection of a weak solution of corrosive sublimate.

37. *Oily Embrocations to the Abdomen as a Remedy for Ascites*.—Dr. ZAVAGLI, an Italian physician, in a work he has published on this subject, relates many cases of ascites which were cured by oleaginous embrocations to the abdomen, after bleeding, squills, digitalis, calomel, and drastic purgatives had been administered without advantage.—*Bull. des Sc. Med.* July, 1829.

38. *On the Use of Stramonium in Mental Alienation, and some other diseases*.—Dr. AMELUNG, in a communication in *Hufeland's Journal* for November, 1828, states that he has employed the stramonium in mental alienation, and some other diseases with surprising effect. He prescribes this medicine in the form of tincture which he prepares by digesting an ounce of the seeds in three ounces of alcohol. The dose for the deranged is ten or fifteen to twenty drops, two to four times a day; he has even given as much as thirty-six drops. In other diseases, the dose is one-half that required in cases of mania. A deranged person who will bear thirty drops four times a day, during the paroxysm, without any ill effects, experiences during his lucid interval from this dose, decided symptoms of poisoning.

The cases of derangement in which this remedy is more particularly useful, according to Dr. A. are those of febrile mania, but it is contra-indicated when there is plethora, or a decided inflammatory diathesis. These must be first removed by bleeding, cold applications and affusions to the head, and by the internal use of large doses of nitre, the tartar emetic, or digitalis. It is necessary in order to obtain a permanent effect from the stramonium, to continue its use for some time, and to augment gradually the dose. If vertigo and weakness of sight are produced, it is necessary to suspend its use, or better, to lessen the dose.

In periodical mania, Dr. A. says that the stramonium is one of the most efficacious means to abridge the attack and diminish its violence. Its prolonged use will also prevent a relapse.

In obstinate epilepsy, Dr. A. asserts that the stramonium is the surest remedy to shorten the paroxysms, and to lessen their frequency. He has never, however, effected a radical cure with it. He has also observed good effects from this remedy in some cases of convulsions, and of spasmodic cough, especially after measles, in a case of catalepsy, and in cramps of the calf of the legs, to which pregnant women are oftentimes subject, especially at night. He has

also found it useful in chronic rheumatism, as a palliative, but it will not effect a cure when the disease is inveterate.

Dr. Hufeland in a note, states that the use of the stramonium requires great caution; he says that it is one of the most active narcotics, and ten drops of the tincture of the seeds can produce very serious narcotism.—*Bulletin des Sciences Médicales*, June, 1829.

39. *On the Employment of Iodine in Lymphatic Tumours*.—M. BAYLE has published in the *Revue Médicale* for March, 1829, twenty-five cases of white tumours, treated with iodine, some of them by himself, and the rest by other practitioners. In all these cases the patients were of a lymphatic constitution, and exhibited various symptoms of scrofula. Under the influence of the preparations of iodine, the general health of all the patients improved, in a very remarkable manner, with one exception, a patient who was in articulo mortis, almost when placed under the use of the remedy. Of the twenty-five patients, twenty-four were affected with lymphatic tumours of the joints; one had only some lymphatic scabs, incontinence of urine during the night, and some other scrofulous symptoms. In eight the tumours were situated in the knee, six in the foot, three in the hip, two in the elbow; in the five others they occupied one or more articulations, and were accompanied with other symptoms of scrofula, as ophthalmia, albugo, discharges, &c. The treatment consisted in the employment of iodine in different forms. To all the tincture was given internally in various doses; some took only twenty-five drops daily, others one hundred. In eight of the cases the ointment of the tincture of iodine or ioduret of potash was used at the same time. Manson employed purgatives in most of the cases treated by him. The following are the results of the cases:—Cured fifteen, benefited six, not cured four—total twenty-five. The number of cases collected by M. Bayle are not sufficient to determine positively the cases in which the iodine ought to succeed, or those in which it promises no advantage. The cases cured were those in which the tumours were neither very voluminous, nor open in many places, with atrophy of the limbs, or without general emaciation. A much greater number of facts are indeed necessary to establish positively the principles of the treatment of these tumours by the preparations of iodine, and it is especially necessary that physicians should report their unsuccessful, as well as successful cases, otherwise we must be led to adopt too favourable an opinion of the value of the remedy.

40. *Treatment of Hooping Cough*.—Dr. KANLEISS, who published in 1827, in *Horn's Archives*, a memoir on the efficacy of a mixture of belladonna, ipecacuanha, and sulphur in the treatment of pertussis, and who had employed it with the greatest success in one hundred cases of this disease, has inserted in *Hufeland's Journal*, for February, 1829, another memoir on this subject, in which he reports a great number of cases observed since, and which confirm his first results. The treatment of Dr. K. consists in the use of the following formulæ. R. Pulv. rad. belladon. gr. iv.; pulv. Doveri, gr. x.; lac. sulph. Div.; sacchar. alb. pulv. ʒij. M. div. in chart xx. A child of two years to take one powder every three hours. Between each dose a tea-spoonful of the following to be given:—R. Aq. chamomile, ʒij.; syrup. simp. ʒij.; acid. pruss. Vauquelin, grt. xij. The proportion of the articles in these prescriptions ought to be increased or diminished according to the age and temperament of the child. The author says that sometimes the effects of these remedies do not manifest themselves for five or six days; but then they become very evident, and generally in from eight to twelve days at furthest the cure is complete. In some cases, after the employment of these remedies for two or three days a red efflorescence of the skin appears, and a greater or less considerable dilatation of the pupils. In this case the treatment must be suspended for twenty-four or thirty-six hours, and the proportion of belladonna diminished.—*Archives Générales*, Nov. 1829.

41. *Partial Palsy cured by Strychnia applied Locally.*—Two cases of partial paralysis have been successfully treated by Dr. AUCARCELOSS with strychnia applied to the denuded cuticle. The first was a man aged fifty-six, an habitual drunkard, admitted into the Glasgow Royal Infirmary on account of a varicose ulcer of the right leg. Ten days previously he suddenly lost the power of the left forearm and hand. The sensation of the parts remained perfect, but he was unable to take hold of any thing, or to extend the wrist and finger joints. Had no head-ache. Being constive, his bowels were freely opened. A blister was then applied to the back of the forearm, and one-eighth of a grain of strychnia sprinkled over the vesicated surface. On each successive day the application was increased, by adding the original quantity to that of the preceding day, till it amounted to one grain, after which one-fourth of a grain, instead of one-eighth, was to be added. From the second week, he felt the parts to improve in power daily, with occasional sensation of prickling along the forearm and fingers. No obvious constitutional effect ensued. He was dismissed cured five weeks from the commencement of the treatment.

In the case of another man admitted in August, with paralysis of flexor muscles, and diminished sensation of the right leg from knee downwards, a similar practice was pursued, with the same good effect. He was dismissed cured, having been under treatment during six weeks.

At *La Pitié* Dr. Baily is in the habit of treating cases of partial palsy in the above way, and is said to be very successful. In some cases he has made trial of the medicine internally without benefit.—*Glasgow Medical Journal*, May, 1829.

42. *Treatment of Persons Poisoned by Hydrocyanic Acid.* By M. ORFILA.—In our last number we briefly noticed the treatment recommended by M. Orfila, in cases of poisoning with hydrocyanic acid, and now give further details from the *Archives Générales*, for July last. Neither liquid ammonia, oil of turpentine, nor the infusion of coffee, administered even at the same time with the acid, seem to controul in the least degree its deleterious effects. Indeed science has not as yet discovered any substance capable of acting on this poison in the stomach, so as to destroy its baneful properties, and it is only by obviating the effects produced on the system, that we can be of any service in these alarming cases. The most efficient means of this sort that we possess are, ammoniacal vapour, chlorine gas, affusions of cold water, and bleeding.

Ammoniacal vapour.—Causing the person to inspire ammonia, diluted with twelve parts of water, is considered a good means of reviving the sunken powers of the nervous system, and will overcome in many instances the ill effects of this acid, if resorted to early; at the same time it might produce serious evils if it were employed undiluted, by inflaming the internal surface of the respiratory organ. M. Orfila made many experiments on dogs with this method, and found that when it was employed early, and the quantity of the acid was not so great as to kill in a very short time, it in many instances prevented the fatal effects where the poison would have inevitably destroyed life, had nothing been done; and in others, it prolonged the term of existence considerably.

Chlorine vapour.—M. Orfila considers the inspiration of chlorine, diluted with four parts of water, a more efficacious means of obviating the poisonous effects of hydrocyanic acid, than either the ammoniacal gas or the cold affusions. By means of it he succeeded in recovering dogs that had taken a sufficient quantity of the acid to destroy them in fifteen or eighteen minutes, provided it was employed within four or five minutes after the ingestion of the poison.

Affusions of cold water.—The affusion of cold water on the head, course of the spine, and even on other parts of the body, M. Orfila admits to be an excellent means to be employed in these cases. In eight experiments with this remedy made on dogs, three were recovered that had taken sufficient acid to have killed them in a few minutes, and in the remaining five, life was greatly prolonged.

Bleeding.—M. Orfila believes that blood-letting may be useful in these cases by diminishing the cerebral congestion, but that it is not a sufficient means of itself to overcome the poisoning: at least he has never succeeded by copious bleedings alone in causing the untoward symptoms to disappear.

Having thus examined successively the different remedies that have been offered to obviate the poisonous effects of hydrocyanic acid, M. Orfila indicates in a few words the order of proceeding that it is proper to institute in these cases. First, to give immediately an emetic or purgative, if too long a time has not elapsed since the acid had been taken; but especially to be assiduous in the application to the nostrils of a flask containing the chlorine or ammonia diluted, desisting now and then to give the patient short intervals of repose. At the same time cold affusions to the head and spine are to be employed, bladders filled with ice to be placed on the head, blood to be taken from the arm or leeches applied behind the ears, and demulcent drinks given from time to time. By these means the evil effects will be usually averted, if too long a time has not elapsed since the ingestion of the poison.

43. *Sulphate of Salicine a substitute for Quinine in the Treatment of Intermittent Fevers.*—M. Devilliers communicated to the Royal Academy of Medicine, at their meeting, Dec. 1st, 1829, a letter from Dr. GERARDIN, in which the latter announces that he has substituted the sulphate of salicine for the sulphate of quinine in the treatment of intermittent fevers, with success. Two cases related in this letter show the efficacy of this remedy extracted from the willow by M. Leroux, pharmacist at Vitry-le-Française. Nearly two years ago, M. Buchner in Germany, and Dr. Rigatelli in Italy, obtained this substance, and employed this remedy in intermittent fevers.—*Archives Générales*, Dec. 1829.

A case of intermittent fever successfully treated at the Hôtel Dieu of Paris, by M. Bally, with the salicine, prepared by M. Leroux, is related in *La Clinique*, for January, 1830.

OPHTHALMOLOGY.

44. *Intermittent Ophthalmia returning every seventh day.*—This interesting case is related by Dr. HUETEN of Marburgh in *Graefe und Walther's Journal*. C. M. ætat 34, a labourer in a mill, subject to asthma, had, during the winter 1826 and 1827, been frequently attacked with ophthalmia, first of the right, then of both eyes. This affection gradually subsided, but about three months afterwards, the right eye, in which the inflammation had been most violent, was on every Friday affected in the following manner. At two o'clock in the morning, the patient was suddenly roused from his sleep by a violent pain in the right eye, which at the same time became filled with tears, injected, and though it was not in the least swelled, caused a sensation of fulness as if it would burst; he could not bear the light, and felt as if there was sand between the conjunctiva and eye-lids. These symptoms continued during the whole day till the evening, when they subsided, with a great discharge of tears from both eyes. On the following day both eyes were perfectly well. During rainy weather, all the symptoms were much less violent than during bright sun-shine. The intermittent ophthalmia regularly continued till the spring of 1828, with this difference only, that during the winter time, the attack began on Thursday night, and lasted only till Friday morning. On the 8th of April, 1828, the patient was, in consequence of a mechanical injury, affected with violent iritis of the left eye; it lasted for about seven weeks, during which time the right eye remained free from the attacks of intermittent ophthalmia. On Friday, the 23d of May, however, the latter returned, though not so violent as before. On the 27th of May, the iritis of the left eye having then almost entirely subsided, a sensation of violent burning and itching suddenly arose in the left eye, with great pain